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FREDERICK JAMES FURNIVALL.

Students of English literature the world over have lost in the death of Dr. Furnivall a guide, philosopher, and friend. He was a guide by virtue of his exemplary devotion to scholarship, a philosopher by right of his creed of courage and cheer, and a friend because he not only applauded the achievements of others but gave of his own and that abundantly. It may be said of him as it was said of another famous clerk: "Gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche."

Frederick James Furnivall, the son of Dr. George Frederick Furnivall, was born at Egham, Surrey, on the fourth of February, 1825. Having received his early education at Englefield Green, Turnham Green, and Hanwell schools, he proceeded to University College, London; Trinity Hall, Cambridge; Lincoln's Inn and Gray's Inn. Early interesting himself in the Christian Socialist and Coöperative movement, he came under the influence of a famous band of reformers, the foremost of whom was Frederick Denison Maurice, whose nobility and courage Tennyson has celebrated in a familiar poem. He lent a hand at the Working Men's College and was proud to declare himself president of the National Amateur Rowing Association, "which admits working men". The democratic spirit and talent for coöperation which Dr. Furnivall showed in these philanthropic enterprises stood him in good stead in his work as a scholar. He was the founder and genial director of the Early English Text Society, the Chaucer, Ballad, and New Shakspeare Societies; founder of the Wyclif and Shelley Societies, and joint founder of the Browning Society. He was able, too, to contribute to the Roxburghe Club publications and the Rolls Series, to aid materially in the work of the Philological Society, and to shoulder editorial burdens in connection with the New English Dictionary. These special services and his general goodness were fittingly recognized about ten years ago, on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday, by a donation of £450 to his early English Text Society, by the presentation of his portrait to Trinity Hall, and by gifts to himself of a big 3-scutting boat and a memorial volume.

We have to honor Dr. Furnivall first of all for his initiative and industry. In his services to the Philological Society and in the foundation and management of many associations of learned men he was a pioneer of modern philology in England. To be sure there came to prepare a way for him such men as Ritson and Wright; and the great Sir Walter himself in founding the Bannatyne Club in 1823 took the road which had been already shown by the Roxburghe, and which was followed in the thirties by the Maitland Club in Glasgow, the Abbotsford Club, and the Surtees and Camden Societies; and in 1840 by the Percy Society. But in founding the Early English Text Society in 1864

Dr. Furnivall struck a new trail so far as English philology is concerned, by editing texts for the scholar rather than the bibliophile. His documents were reproduced faithfully, and by minimizing the cost of publication and by placing the books on the market, he brought them within the reach of persons of moderate means. All this was admirably hopeful and courageous only five years after Ebert had begun the publication of his *Jahrbuch*, and almost fifteen years before Kölbing founded the *Englische Studien* and Wülcker the *Anglia*. Dr. Furnivall's accomplishment was not simply that in the face of many difficulties he kept his cherished society together; but that he stimulated by his example and made possible by the society's published documents a wide and fruitful interest in the field of mediaeval studies.

By virtue of the extent of its field and its actual accomplishments the Early English Text Society is the most important of Dr. Furnivall's associations. Among the others special praise is due to his Chaucer and New Shakspeare Societies. In our increasing impatience with the text of Chaucer, we are in danger of forgetting the substantive aid which the Chaucer Society has rendered. However much remains to be done, we should gratefully remember what has been accomplished in the way of realizing the society's declared purpose, "to let the lovers and students of him [Chaucer] see how far the best unprinted manuscripts of his works differed from the printed texts". This was the object of the first series; that of the second series was to publish "such originals of and essays on these [Chaucer's works] as can be procured with other illustrative treatises, and supplementary tales". Although this second series has been eminently justified by such indispensable volumes as Professor Kittredge's "Language of the Troilus"—to mention no others—one may without being captious, express a slight regret that space which was found for several inconsequential and sketchy essays, had not been given to more manuscripts. Certainly, the fact that the Chaucer Society was much more than a text society, exposed it to the dangers of Furnivall's cordial regime. Cordial, too, in other ways, was the management of the New Shakspeare Society. This organization, which had been preceded in England by the Shakspeare Society, lasting from 1840 to 1853, and in Germany by the *Shakspeare-Gesellschaft*, founded in 1864, was formed in 1873 for "the careful study of Shakspeare's text and the printing of material more or less difficult to obtain which bore upon the study of Shakspeare's work". But characteristically, Furnivall did not stop here. Wishing the influence of his society to be broad, he exhorted every member "to do his best to form Shakspeare reading-parties, to read the plays chronologically, and discuss each after its reading in every set of people, club or institute, that he belongs to",—continuing in his pleasant way, "there are few better ways of spending three hours of a winter evening indoors, or a summer afternoon on the grass". Enlisted with him in this undertaking were both

Tennyson and Browning and such great scholars as Wright, Skeat, and Child. At the end of its first year the society had enrolled 450 members and had helped to establish many branch-societies and reading-clubs.

I have heard very often of late that Dr. Furnivall was not a great scholar. I know only that we have received at his hands almost daily benefits: he has made possible the thorough revision of many chapters in the history of English literature and he has laid broad and deep the foundation for a new history of the English language. In marshalling forces for tasks that required many hands, and in intelligent and sympathetic direction of their work, he proved himself a very captain of scholars. He has brought within reach of all a great body of material which was previously only in manuscript or in rare printed editions; and the impetus which his work and example have given, especially to mediaeval studies, is on record in almost every article and book in this field of scholarship.

Much of Dr. Furnivall's success in the conduct of his many enterprises must be attributed to his charming personality. He was indeed on such cordial terms with life—he had shown such a fine zest and talent for living—that we had all learned to think of him as a permanent good. The eccentricities and amazing irrelevancies into which his heartiness sometimes led him, we can easily forgive; for his sense of comradeship with scholars of every land made quite impossible for him that impersonality which is characteristic of most German and American scholarship. Indeed it was this very sense of comradeship, as we have suggested, which helped to cement those societies, whose work is a lasting monument to Dr. Furnivall's initiative and zeal.

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